filed House assassins

6/9/77

Dear Joe,

Glad to hear from you. Thanks for the syndicated version of what was by-lined in the Times of the same day. Wendell Rawls III wrote the story.

I'm terribly sorry this committee has turned out to be a new breed of irresponsibles, a modern-day McCarthyism. If they have done a single good thing it is unknown to me. It has done much bad, from stealing to lying to the most basic violation of rights.

Your representation of what the committee has done, scant as it is, exaggerates and flatters it.

It did not locate deMohrenschildt. That was done by E.J.Epstain, who reportedly has a heavy deal with Readers Digest press which with him have records of earlier official connection.

It did call Trafficante, who did take the fifth. It did not establish any base for calling him, though. It is not mandated to investigate plots against Castro. I am sure that T's lawyer did not raise the issue of relevance because he saw a way of writing a new life insurance policy on T bh having him appear in public and assert his right so there would be no doubt in anyone's mind. Like the kinds of people who kill the Giancanas and Rosellis of this world.

Rather than locating Hall they deceived a reporter who knew Hall and made unkept promises. Without this they'd never have served a subpoena on him. Without this he'd also have been cooperative.

When he spotted me in the ~~witness~~ hearing room he left the witness chair and came over to make a date for getting together when the session, a very short one, was over. I was talking to another and was not aware until he grabbed my shoulder. I'm told I missed the bugging of eyes, official and unofficial.

He is a typical soldier-of-fortune type, an overgrown boy. But we had a pleasant late morning and early afternoon of drinking and reminiscing.

The committee characters wedded themselves to the mixture of ripoff and fabrication by Lane, who has an unerring buck/sensation instinct. They are hung on the nothingness while Lane has $100,000 from it.

I'd appreciate any copies of any stories you can send. I'm leaving for about 2 weeks.

There is not likely to be either relevance or substance to the Bensterwald book. The tragicly dependable rule is that is it ain't crap it ain't publishable.

Best,